# For those Unable to be Present at the Funeral

*This service may be adapted to suit particular circumstances. It may be led by a friend or family member or by a minister. The parts printed in bold may be said by everyone as a sign of our support for one another. The service is deliberately based on the Funeral Service itself and may be used at the same time or another time.*

*As Christians we believe that there is hope in death as in life and we continue to live in God after death. God’s love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Yet, there is real loss at the death of a loved one and we need the support of those around us and the comfort and peace of God.*

## The Greeting

We have come together  
to remember before God the life of N,  
to commend her/him to God’s keeping,  
to commit her/his body to be buried/cremated,  
and to comfort those who mourn  
with our sympathy and with our love;  
in the hope we share  
through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## The Love of God

Hear the words of Jesus Christ our Saviour:

Koia anō te aroha o te Atua ki te ao, hōmai ana e ia tāna  
Tama kotahi, kia kāhore ai e ngaro te tangata e whakapono  
ana ki a ia, engari kia whiwhi ai ki te ora tonu. *Hoani 3:16*

Ahakoa, nā te mate tātou i wehe i a *Ingoa*  
kia mahara, e kore tātou e motuhia  
i te aroha noa o te Atua.

Let us pray (saying together)

**God our Comforter,  
you are a refuge and a strength for us,  
a helper close at hand in times of distress.  
Help us so to hear the words of our faith  
that our fear is dispelled,  
our loneliness eased and our hope reawakened.  
May your Holy Spirit lift us  
above our natural sorrow,  
to the peace and light of your constant love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## The Remembrance

In a time of silence,  
let us make our personal thanksgiving to God  
for all that N has meant to us.

*Silence is kept, concluded by the following*

For her/his life and our memories we give thanks.

Almighty God,  
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice  
and love everything you have made.  
We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace   
to all who love you.  
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,  
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
who died, who rose again, and lives for evermore.   
**Amen.**

I runga i te whakapono me te tūmanako,  
ka īnoi tātou

**E tō mātou Matua i te rangi  
 Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.  
 Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.  
 Kia meatia tāu e pai ai  
 ki runga ki te whenua,  
 kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.  
Hōmai ki a mātou āianei  
 he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.**

**Murua ō mātou hara,  
 Me mātou hoki e muru nei  
 i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.  
Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
 Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:  
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
 me te korōria,  
 Āke ake ake.    Āmine.**

## The Ministry of the Word

*Any Psalms or readings from the funeral service may be read.*

Lord, help us to accept and understand your gospel,  
so that we may find light in our darkness,  
faith in our doubts and comfort for one another.  
**Amen.**

*Those present may be encouraged to share briefly their memories of the one who has died.*

## The Prayers

*The prayers from the Funeral Service, or less formal prayer, may follow as appropriate to the circumstances, concluding with the following.*

Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more  
than all we can ask or conceive,  
by the power which is at work among us,  
be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages.  
**Amen.**

## The Commendation

E kore te mate, te ora rānei,  
e kore ngā anahera, ngā rangatiratanga rānei,   
e kore ngā mea onāianei,  
e kore ngā mea e puta mai ā mua, e kore ngā mana,  
e kore te tiketike, e kore te hōhonu,  
e kore tētahi atu mea hanga,  
e kaha ki te momotu i a tātou i te aroha o te Atua,  
i tērā i roto nei i a Karaiti Īhu i tō tātou Ariki. Rōma 8:38,39

Go forth from this world:  
in the love of God the Father who created you,  
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.  
In communion with all the faithful, may you dwell this day in peace. **Amen.**

*The leader says*

We have been parted from N,  
but none of us need ever be separated from the love of God.

## The Blessing of Peace

**Kia tau ki a tātou katoa  
te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, o Īhu Karaiti,  
me te aroha o te Atua,  
me te whiwhinga tahitanga ki te Wairua Tapu,  
āke ake ake.   Āmine.**